

Honing skills



Craig Potter, of Preston High School, solders copper piping during the Skills Canada high school competition.

(Photo by Linda Yovanovitch)

DSA remains neutral on Community Action Day

By Patrick Moore

Members at an emergency board of directors meeting April 10, voted 12-1, with two abstentions, to authorize the DSA to print postcards on which students could voice their approval or disapproval of the recent education cuts handed down by the provincial government.

The postcards will have a DSA stamp on them and a disclaimer stating that the DSA does not necessarily endorse the opinions expressed on the cards.

DSA entertainment assistant Gavin FitzPatrick said the DSA is acting as a liaison to provide information and offer students an avenue to express themselves on Community Action Day.

FitzPatrick was referring to the April 19 day of protest in Waterloo Region.

At an earlier April 8 DSA executive meeting, FitzPatrick urged board executives to call an emergency board of directors meeting to reconsider how the DSA will respond to the day of protest.

At the board of directors meeting, he explained about the post-

cards. "There would be three types of postcards. One would be supportive of the education cuts, another against them. The third card would allow students to voice their own, individual opinions."

The cards would have a space for students to put in their local MPP's name and address. The DSA would pay for the postage and send the card.

Pedro Sousa, DSA returning officer, objected to the postcard campaign. "If people want to go out into the pickets or stay inside, fine. It is not our duty to support them in doing so."

"We are not officially condoning or condemning students protesting the rallies," said FitzPatrick. "We are providing a non-partisan conduit through which students could express themselves."

April-Dawn Blackwell, DSA vice-president of student affairs, said the board of directors has an obligation to be a way for students to voice their concerns.

"I object to the DSA logo being placed on these cards," said Sousa. "It seems like we would be endorsing this one way or the

other."

FitzPatrick said it would be unrealistic to expect an MPP to respond to 200 postcards individually, which is why the DSA logo and address would be on the cards.

He said the cards would be distributed on Tuesday, April 16, at the next board of directors meeting. The board would then distribute them to students.

Students could drop off the completed cards at the DSA office, to a board representative or at Dooner's.

FitzPatrick said posters and radio announcements would also be used to bring student attention to the postcards. "By offering this avenue, we are heading off potential problems such as what happened at Queen's Park."

He said the cards would cost about \$30 and enough would be produced for more than half the students.

FitzPatrick said other ideas were explored, such as a button campaign, but they would be considerably more expensive and only provide internal solutions, with no real effect outside the college.

CRKZ program manager to march in support of citizens' rights

Conestoga student plans protest with a twist

By Robert Klager

Adam McCarthy is an Ontario citizen. That fact alone, he says, lends more credibility to his voice in the province than any political or advocacy affiliation could ever do.

The 26-year-old Conestoga broadcasting student and program manager for CRKZ is the newest face to enter Ontario's arena of social issues, coming forward armed with a unique perspective on reform and positioning himself much further to the right than most Ontario students being represented in the press these days.

On April 19, McCarthy plans to shatter the mould of the "hard-done-by victim of the Harris government." He will be marching down King Street in Kitchener-Waterloo, but not under the banner one might expect — he supports what the government is doing.

"March into the Future," a march against labor's "Community Action Day," is McCarthy's brainchild and will take place ahead of labor's parade through Kitchener. Through growing support, he hopes his anti-protest will speak to and for the silent majority he feels has been overshadowed by a minority group of the discontented.

"Traditionally, Canadians — un-

less pushed — are unwilling to act," said McCarthy in a recent interview. "I've decided I'm going to do something before that happens."

McCarthy believes he's not alone in his views on government and his expectations as a citizen of the province.

"We are a billion dollars in debt and paying millions daily in interest. The province is sick and we must take our medicine, even though it may taste like Buckley's," said McCarthy. "Personally, I'd much rather suffer a little bit now, than have nothing left for tomorrow."

McCarthy said some organizations have reacted through protests and violence, shutting down cities in the process.

"There are individuals out there who assume they are representing everyone," he said. "But they're not."

"It is perfectly fine for someone to



Third-year broadcasting student Adam McCarthy says enough is enough, as he organizes a protest against protestors.

(Photo by Robert Klager)

act on their right to express their views," said McCarthy. "But they're coming to my city and now it's infringing on my rights, and that's not fine."

McCarthy said people need to know there is an option, they don't need to sit at home shaking their heads.

He said the recent OPSEU strike has generated a lot of passion for his cause, citing threats to employ-

ees who tried to cross picket lines, and the "get even" mentality he says is being perpetuated in the workplace by the union movement today.

"I won't need 100,000 people to prove my point," said McCarthy. "This current government was elected overwhelmingly, so we know the majority of people are on our side."

McCarthy admits his planned march faces an "awful" dilemma, in that people who are currently employed, although in agreement with the cause, feel threatened by the repercussions expressing their views may have. He said turn-out may also be affected by the timing of the protest.

"It is, after all, Friday and some people feel accountable to their jobs and are going to work," said McCarthy.

To him, accountability is the key word. "People feel they need to blame someone and immediately

go after the government," said McCarthy. "Don't blame the government, blame yourself for wasting resources for the last 40 years. Cuts are the bottom line, but directly or indirectly, people have made choices in their lives to put themselves in certain situations and they need to be accountable."

McCarthy said what the unions are planning for April 19 isn't accountable or a community action day. "It's the unions' agenda day, their march into the past," he said.

McCarthy is optimistic about the number of supporters he expects to turn out, but says actual numbers are irrelevant.

"This is not pro-government, it's pro-rights," he said. "But I can tell you, there will be a lot more people than just me and a few close friends on April 19."

More information about McCarthy's protest can be accessed through his E-mail address at blkstar@golden.net.

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CAMPUS NEWS

News editor: Barbara Walden 748-5366

DSA introduces new executive positions for 1996 - 1997 school year

By Barbara Walden

The Doon Student Association has re-aligned its executive positions for the upcoming school year with an eye to increasing student awareness of the political arm of the association.

April-Dawn Blackwell, vice-president of student affairs, said in an interview many students aren't aware that the DSA is available to help them with problems they may be experiencing in their program or with faculty.

The newly created position of education and communications co-ordinator, which replaces the director of public relations, will assist students if they feel their program

co-ordinator has not resolved a problem to their satisfaction.

Blackwell said the education and communications co-ordinator will also offer direction or assistance to students with requests for teacher evaluations or academic appeals.

She said they hope to make the teacher evaluations mean more. The public relations duties of the position will not change.

Partial funding for this position will come from commission on advertising sales generated for the student handbook.

Also new to the executive will be the appointment of four promotions assistants, replacing the former entertainment and activities assistants.

These new assistants will work to ensure all areas of events are covered.

Jobs will be delegated to each assistant to make him or her a part of the team, said Blackwell, and he or she will be assigned work in their particular area of interest or expertise.

Another change will be replacing the director of entertainment with an entertainment manager.

Many of the previous duties for

the entertainment manager will remain the same, but there will be increased emphasis on the educational side with more seminars and lecture series planned as well as improved communication with the director of student life.

Blackwell said the number of entertainment events will not change however. "We'd be missing the mark if we took away any of our entertainment," she said.

"Our nooners and other events have been very successful this year. The Sanctuary has been full during most events."

There are no additional costs to the DSA to implement any of these changes, Blackwell said.

DSA executives are not currently bound to any specific office hours. Blackwell said next year each executive will hold regular office hours for at least two hours per week to make them available to the student body.

All positions on the DSA require a minimum commitment of 10 hours per week. Honorariums vary depending on the position held.

Blackwell said applications for all DSA executive positions will be accepted until April 16.

In brief

Board of governors election

The new student representative for the board of governors is Julie Donnelly and the faculty representative is Bob Wall.

Donnelly defeated Gavin FitzPatrick and Ben Noseworthy with 32 votes. FitzPatrick and Noseworthy received 16 and 13 votes, respectively.

Wall defeated Bob Hays with 59 votes. Hays received 17 votes.

Wild ride



First-year LASA student Mustafa Sajid concentrates while trying out the virtual reality snow board ride in the Sanctuary, April 1.

(Photo by Barbara Walden)

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Information and applications
available from Student Services

Setting the strategy Business students hear plans for fund-raiser

By Tara Brown

The Conestoga Business Students Association (CBSA) heard the latest in the college's strategy to raise funds for the future at their Thursday, April 4 meeting.

Helena Webb, assistant to college president John Tibbits, asked CBSA members to help the fundraising committee contact college alumni.

"The biggest group of college supporters are the alumni and all we're asking for is a modest gift," Webb said. "Fund-raising is the only way we're going to get all the money we need." Webb said the two biggest areas currently in need of money are scholarships and students.

Conestoga alumni have been asked to donate \$50 to the school. Funds may be directed to specific programs and scholarships. Of the \$50 donation, \$10 will go to a plaque to be placed at the base of one of the many trees on campus while the remaining \$40 will be used to upgrade or maintain programs and equipment in the college.

A letter has already been sent to college alumni asking them to participate in the program but Webb said the adopt-a-tree committee wants to follow up each letter with a phone call. "We have thousands of calls to make," Webb said.

Conestoga's business students were asked to help by providing volunteers to contact various business alumni during the week of April 15, and possibly the week after, from 5 to 7 p.m.

"The more students, the less work for each person. We're looking for as many people as we can get," Webb said.

CBSA members raised concern over whether money would be applied to "cutting-edge" technology or simply maintaining the status quo.

Capital for equipment has been "cut to the bone," acknowledged Webb, and the college cannot expect more than approximately \$300,000 for this year's allocation. That amount could be "gobbled up in a minute," but Webb said that business student volunteers would be best able to inform alumni of the equipment needs within the program.

Webb said thorough training would be provided to all volunteers to enable them to inform alumni of their option to direct the funds and assure them of where their donation would be going within the college. The adopt-a-tree program may go on the CBSA's Internet home-page to better reach out-of-contact alumni.

In other CBSA news, sign-up sheets for door duty at the final "biz bash" and the business awards banquet to be held April 11, are now available.

The banquet will run until 8:30 or 9 p.m., with doors opening for the "biz bash" at 8 p.m. in Ruby's at the Waterloo Inn.

Students are reminded to bring their student card and valid I.D. Guests are limited to three per student.

CAMPUS NEWS

Charity work provides job opportunities

By Jeannette Cantin

Human Resources Development Canada and Labatt Breweries of Canada are jointly offering the Labatt People in Action (LPiA) community funding program once again, providing 120 students with a chance to develop work skills this summer.

Offered since 1977, the program brings Canadian secondary and post-secondary students together with registered charities to develop proposals designed to positively impact their communities, according to an April 2 press release from Labatt.

A national committee selects the successful applications — 30 from each of Western Canada, Ontario, Quebec and Atlantic Canada — based on the urgency and benefit of the project, the quality of the job experience developed and the organization's need for funding.

According to the press release, Labatt has committed millions of dollars to the program since its inception, creating more than 3,000 jobs in the process.

Registered charities interested in the program must submit project proposals that will provide long-term benefit to the student in terms of skills and the demonstration of ability to impact the community. The summer job created by the proposal must provide a minimum of 30 hours

of work per student, per week.

The press release states that charities relating to women, aboriginals and homeless or at-risk youth will be favored, however, other proposals will be considered.

To be eligible, students must be returning, full-time students at either a secondary, post-secondary or vocational school, and not have a full-time summer job.

As well, four students involved in the program will receive the Labatt People In Action scholarship in September. These students will be awarded \$2,000 if they have demonstrated that their project helped build involvement in the community.

Troy Taylor, manager of public affairs for Labatt Breweries Ontario, is quoted as saying, "Job prospects for students are bleak. To address their feelings of skepticism and powerlessness, students need to feel they can make a difference. They also need opportunities that focus on developing valuable work skills and broaden their network of contacts."

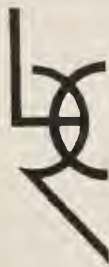
He added, "We believe this program can be a good start for students to develop those fundamental skills, while at the same time, get involved with, and contribute to their communities." Applications are being accepted until April 26, 1996. Interested students and charities can call 1-800-618-4725 for information.

Need a car wash?



First-year recreation leadership student Kelly Oliver and instructor Greg Burns stand beside the Nissan 200SX which is first-prize in an OSAID fund-raising draw.

(Photo by Jason Seeds)



Learning
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DOON CAMPUS

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The Doon Learning Resource Centre extends a sincere thank you to the DSA for their generous donation of four computer workstations.

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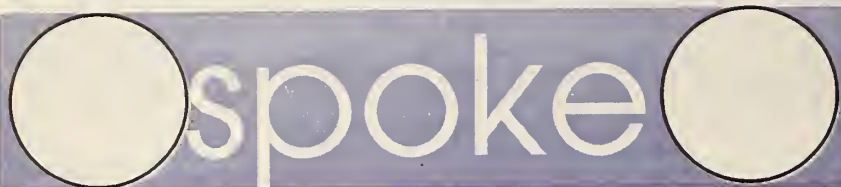


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Advertisers in SPOKE are not endorsed by the DSA unless their advertisements contain the DSA logo. SPOKE shall not be liable for any damages arising out of errors in advertising beyond the amount paid for the space.

Unsolicited submissions must be sent to the editor at the above address by 9 30 a.m. Monday. Submissions are subject to acceptance or rejection and should be clearly written or typed; a WordPerfect 5.0 file would be helpful. Submissions

The cost of higher education

Wouldn't it be nice if money grew on trees? Students, especially, no doubt wish it did.

Students are not among the wealthy in our society, in fact, they are probably the poorest. Certainly, with tuition costs steadily on the rise, they will become a lot poorer.

Higher education is quickly becoming a privilege reserved for those who can afford it.

Isn't everybody entitled to an education to better themselves?

Of course there are financial assistance programs like OSAP or the bank of mom and dad, but what about those students who don't qualify for OSAP or those without wealthy parents? Those are the people denied higher education.

There are many people who don't continue their education past high school because they can't afford to.

There are many instances of students whose parents must go to extremes such as mortgaging their houses just to pay for their children's tuition.

University costs significantly more than college. Considering tuition costs for university and the length of time it takes to earn a degree, the amount is astounding.

Also, taking into account the cost of book and supplies required for courses, the price of post-secondary education jumps significantly.

By the time a student earns a basic degree, they are in debt thousands of dollars.

The only way to pay off that debt, short of winning a lottery, is by getting a job after graduation. Unfortunately, there doesn't seem to be enough jobs to go around.

In light of the huge provincial debt, it is understandable that cuts must be made, but education is one area that should be left alone.

By boosting tuition costs and cutting college and university staff, education will become an institution for the elite. The quality of education will suffer and hurt Ontario in the future.

What's in a name?

Taken from a May 1968 issue of Spoke

The name of a college newspaper must hold some significance, as well as a connection with the institution. We hope that in the name the 'Spoke', we have achieved this purpose.

The wheel is used as a symbol of motion and progress, and it is the hope of the editorial staff that our Spoke may also become one of the symbols of progress in this college. The wheel is also used as a symbol of a democratic country. The rim, the spoke, and the hub represent the citizens, the lines of communications, and the government. We intend to develop the Spoke as a line of communication within the college as a whole.

We seriously hope that the students, staff and faculty of the college will use Spoke to its fullest extent to voice their differing opinions in any field they desire.

Correction

In the story, "Business as usual for protest day, says Tibbits," in the April 8 edition of Spoke, President John Tibbits should have been quoted as saying, "But I'm happy we haven't had to lay off *too many people*."

Just a thought



By Linda
Yovanovich

What next, plastic customers?

Let's face it, we all do it. Some of us do it everyday. Some of us only do it when nobody's looking. But we all do it at one time or another. Yes, using a bank machine is now officially a part of everyday life.

It seems so easy — almost erotic. Stick the card in and money spits out. Instant gratification!

And now — praise the wise old gods of technology — we can even do it in stores.

How many of us, though, stop to think about the consequences of this kind of technology, which places so much power in the hands of so few — namely, banks.

Think about it, banks are boasting huge profits while everyone else is down-sizing. Service charges are steadily rising, but the number of people who actually serve customers is on a decline.

Fairview Park Mall, in Kitchener, is a perfect example. One bank in this bustling mall has been replaced by a row of nameless, faceless machines.

Sounds like a science fiction novel, doesn't it? Frighteningly enough, it is not. The beeping and churning of the new-model bank teller has replaced the breathing and speaking of the antiquated one.

We're paying for conveniences. Out of our pockets and into the unemployment lines.

Somehow, though, the workers of some banks have been brainwashed into thinking that these pseudo-co-workers are really their friends.

On one trip to a bank I wanted to withdraw some money. Seconds after finishing a sentence to that effect, I was abruptly told by a stone-faced teller "You know you can do that at the machine located right outside the doors."

I said, "Yes, I am well aware of that, but there is a long line at the machine."

The teller, with furrowed brow and sensing some kind of evil, human conspiracy, proceeded to walk half-way out of the bank to see if I was telling the truth. Ironical, isn't it, that this happened at a different branch of the bank which no longer exists at Fairview Mall?

Needless to say, that bank has not received my business since.

Perhaps I'm just being petty, but is it so wrong to want to deal with a human?

So the next time you encounter people behind a counter ready to serve you, wherever you may be, take the time to smile and greet them. Techno-god knows, their days may be numbered.

Conestoga Corner



By Diane
Santos

Out with the rudeness

The cheerful smiles of spring are painted on the faces of students who have emerged from their fortress of snow.

Students who are outside having a cigarette say hello to one another as they bask in the sunlight beaming down.

A new day has dawned and with it came the cold rain, but then a rainbow.

One might hope a new attitude could change the rudeness of some students.

Walking into the main building on a beautiful spring day would make just about everyone depressed, but when does that give a person the right to close a door in your face?

Or better yet, take the elevator two floors up when the person in a wheelchair needs to go one floor down?

Granted, the February blahs had almost everybody down and out, but for some unknown reason, some students and faculty have decided to tick off even more people by simply being rude. The old saying "misery loves company," isn't always accurate.

Recently in Roasters, I was able to observe some people standing in line to get their coffee. Some others just walked right in front of them to pay. Not one had the decency to even say, "excuse me."

The same can be said for the fourth floor. The hustle and bustle on the fourth can be, at times, annoying. Between dozens of journalism, broadcasting and law and security students, there is always some kind of movement going on.

But the latest trend is the tri-pod obstacle course, which stops most of the movement in the hallway. Unfortunately, saying "excuse me," usually lands on deaf ears until we throw in the occasional cuss word.

And then, of course, there is the lounge.

"Where to begin?" I ask myself. When there

is a nooner and there are students sitting on the tables along the wall, or sitting on the floor, there is always one person who, for some reason, feels compelled to become the star attraction and sit directly in front of you, blocking your view of whatever it is that you are watching. Would it be too much to just look behind you before you pick a location to sit down?

Most importantly, what happened to using the crosswalk?

Lately, it seems that people have forgotten the white lines painted on the pavement. They are crossing the road where ever they want. Remember, pedestrians do have the right of way, but not when they are jaywalking.

What about campus security? The people who are supposed to protect us can't even be civil when you ask them a question.

Some security staff members seem most happy when they bark at you for asking a question, or when they are ticketing your car. Understandably, their reactions are usually the results of student actions.

One thing must be realized, we are not all the same people. We are individuals with our own minds who deserve some kindness and courtesy if we aren't the specific student who ticked them off.

Lastly, there are the students who come into your class when your class is working on a major assignment and even though you ask them not to print anything, they still proceed in backing up the printer and then you end up losing a mark because your assignment was late. What ever happened to waiting your turn. It seems that not many people have learned to be conscientious of others.

Since spring is finally here, and the term is almost over, I have high hopes that everyone's sunny disposition will include a thank you, excuse me, and even a hello.

Journalism 2 Spring Supplement

Editor: Richard Kew ☐ Copy Editor: Matthew Harris ☐ Photo Editor: Paul Roberts ☐ Production Manager: Jennifer Dougall ☐ Production Assistant: Sara Maxim

So you want to "surf the net"? Join the crowd.

The Internet is quickly becoming one of the world's favorite pastimes, with thousands of areas of information. The areas range from educational to the macabre and everything in-between.

In the United States President Bill Clinton has initiated the Blue Ribbon Campaign, a program designed to censor everything being put on the net.

Here in Canada, instead of censoring the net, Prime Minister Jean Chretien's government is developing a system whereby all elementary and secondary schools in the country will have access to the Internet.

The federal government is also going to institute, as part of a student summer employment plan, a program to have students teach small businesses how to access the internet.

Cable television companies are poised to enter the Internet market place, making this technology available to an even greater number of consumers which will fuel the expansion of the "Net" to an even greater degree.

Newspapers are also attaching themselves to the Internet. The Toronto Star recently announced the opening of their home page and their intention of becoming an Internet server linking customers to the Internet.

The Internet can be a useful and entertaining environment. We have listed several interesting Internet addresses on the back page. We hope you find them helpful.

Photo by JDougall

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'Indie' band makes noise on the Internet

by Bryce Wilson

With the expansion of the Internet, many artists are finding an outlet for their creativity. Musicians all over the world have been quick to join the ranks of the interactive music scene.

According to Breck Campbell, 24, "Being in a band, you want to get exposure and the Internet is the newest medium for bands today."

Campbell, a member of the London-based band Acid Mud Flower, was talking about the band's involvement with the Internet.

Campbell said Acid Mud Flower was one of the first 50 bands in Canada to have a Web site.

"A year and a half ago we didn't have to pay anything," he said. "Now we do have to pay, but it's pretty minimal."

He said the Internet is a trendy thing to be doing and it's easy to access a Web site that's available worldwide.

"It's fairly easy to set up a site," he said. "Once you set it up, it's always there. It's hooked up worldwide. For all I know, people

looking at our site could be from Japan or Australia."

Ease of access is very important for bands, especially bands like Acid Mud Flower, who are presently shopping their music around and looking for record deals. According to Campbell, "Record companies have people who search the 'Net' constantly looking to sign bands."

Users who access Acid Mud Flower's web site can download a 30-second sound sample of a song, even though it can take up to 45 minutes to load.

"Eventually it's going to get easier and quicker to download," Campbell said, "but right now it's kind of limited. People have to know where to go to access our music."

Once a listener has heard the music, he or she can get mail-order goods from the band.

According to Mitch Zimmer, "Once you know a few tricks, it's very easy to write a Web page."

Zimmer, 36, from Aylmer, is the man responsible for setting up Acid Mud Flower's Web site. In fact, he's currently in charge of



Web sites for eight London-area bands and two bars.

For a \$25 setup fee and a monthly charge of \$8, Zimmer will set up the page, do a write-up and create a sound sample for a band. Right now, he's just on the verge of breaking even and admits he isn't doing it for the money. "If I get enough money to get a lunch and breakfast out of it I'll be happy," he said.

Zimmer started the site because there's talk about those bands on the Net. He said there are information rich and poor, and he's trying to help local bands to come online. "I just want everyone to have some type of representation on the Net," he said.

So far, about 800 people have looked over his site. He has not advertised at all in order to keep the prices down for bands. He said, "for some reason the number of people seems to ebb and flow." He can't explain why, but with more and more bands and features, the number of visitors has been increasing.

He said musicians have been on the Internet for a couple of years now, but it's still in the formative process. "There are 30 million people connected right now," he said.

"It's hard to say who's connected when. Not even one per cent of the world is hooked up." Although it's easier than ever to get access, he still feels it has a long way to go.

"There was fear when television came along that radio would die," Zimmer said. "But it's just another form of advertising. It all became interactive." He feels the Internet is just adding to the information highway, adding that music is just a tiny part of the overall scheme.

"It's becoming a 'media stew' everyone can become involved with," he concluded.

Journalism 2 Spring Supplement

Editor: Richard Kew ■ Copy Editor: Matthew Harris ■ Photo Editor: Paul Roberts ■ Production Manager: Jennifer Dougall ■ Production Assistant: Sara Maxim



Perhaps icon help you save?

Internet Lingo

Alt-: alternative to or different from, usually refers to a branch of a particular newsgroup. Discussions usually of a more frank nature are found in the alt type groups.

:-D is laughing

Browsers: software used to navigate on the Internet, for example, Netscape or Mosaic both commercial browsers.

BYE = bye for now

Chat lines: Internet Relay Chat (IRC) sites where you can converse by keyboard with others.

Cyberspace: the environment of the Internet

E-zines: electronic magazines available through e-mail. @SIDEBAR TEXT =

Flamed: to receive a nasty or insulting message.

Gopher: a document retrieval system used on the Internet.

HTML: hypertext markup language used to format a document, for example, a Web page.

:-) is a smiling face

Faq: frequently asked questions

Hyperlinks: used to link Web pages to other parts of the document or to other documents.

IMHO: in my humble opinion (saves keystrokes on chat lines)

LOL = laugh out loud

ROTFL = rolling on the floor laughing

Lurk: to frequent sites on the Internet (such as chat lines) but never contribute to them.

Netiquette: etiquette for the Internet, for example, don't use upper-case letters, it means you are shouting.

Server: a company that provides users with access to the Internet.

Snail mail: how the Internet community refers to regular postal service.

URL: Universal resource locator, another name for an Internet address.

World Wide Web: a part, but not all, of the Internet developed to use Hypertext-linked documents.

New modems on the horizon

by Rick Kew

As the Internet's popularity grows, a whole new range of services and entertainment fields are appealing to a broader range of customers, causing an acceleration in Internet growth. The problem now is how to take advantage of the potential information without spending time waiting for the download to be completed. One of the bottlenecks in this process is the computer user's modem.

Modems are rated in bits per second (BPS) and the higher the number the faster the information transfer.

Andy Michie, a sales representative for Computer Odyssey Inc., in Hamilton, explained that the number associated with modems, for example, 14,400 BPS, does not stand for the number of characters per second that the modem can transmit. Each character, for example, the letter "A", consists of eight bits which equals one byte; thus, a 14,400 BPS modem will transfer 1,800 characters per second — about two double-spaced, typed pages.

As recently as one year ago, 2,400 BPS modems were common, 14,400 BPS modems were standard equipment in new computer systems and 28,800 BPS modems, which in theory would double the information transfer, were being introduced by communications' manufacturers.

Michie said, "Even at these

speed advantages, I think it could be a false economy for a user to upgrade to a 28,800 BPS modem for a number of reasons.

"Within the next five years modems will be available from your local cable company that will be at least 15 times faster than the 28,800 BPS modem.

"Unless the user intends to transfer large text files on a regular basis or is going to be uploading or downloading graphics files, which in terms of bytes are quite large, he really should have no need for anything larger than a 14,400 BPS modem.

"The server you link up with may not have the capabilities to allow you to use the higher-speed modem."

Michie said he knows a cable company has been running a trial system in Newmarket offering Internet service to subscribers through a modem designed specifically to operate over existing

Free net: text only Internet access

cable lines.

He said he has heard the cost of these modems will be around \$1,000 and the Internet service will be \$50 a month.

"As the cable technology to access the Internet becomes popular, the prices will become competitive with conventional modems, but there will be no comparison in the amount of information passed," said Michie.



Andy Michie of Computer Odyssey in Hamilton displays an internal modem from his inventory.

Photo-illustration by R Kew

Michie said, "I would recommend that someone wanting to get on the Internet purchase an internal 14,400 BPS modem.

"The internal modem is more cost effective and does not pose as many potential problems as an external modem."

Michie said he has found the additional cables and connectors on external modems can be sources of problems that you won't encounter with internal modems.

He said he would also check with customers who are upgrading their modem to ensure their computers are equipped with internal serial ports that are compatible with the higher-speed modems.

Some older computers will not be able to take advantage of the faster speeds because of this limi-

tation.

Michie would like to see people try the Internet via one of the "Free Nets", available in Hamilton and other Ontario cities, before spending their money.

"Although they would only have text access to the Internet, the customer could experiment on the 'Net' without being seduced by the graphics that they would find on the commercial servers," said Michie.

"Some people tend to lose enthusiasm in the Internet after a month or so," Michie said.

"So why spend big dollars for something you don't need and will be coming down in price continually? Just because something is available doesn't mean you need to have it," said Michie.

Surf the world at the touch of a button

by Jennifer Dougall

People can now order a pizza, get a psychic reading or even chat with someone from the other side of the world without leaving the comfort of their home.

To someone without experience, the Internet can seem pretty overwhelming, even scary at times. But with the age of the "Net" comes quick solutions and easy answers. Anyone can become a pro.

Jim Dowthwaite, a second-year mechanical engineering technology student at Conestoga College, has been connected to the Internet for almost a year. He spends about two hours a day, four days a week "surfing the Net."

"Usually it's about 12 o'clock at night when I decide to go on it, after the TV's really boring," he said.

Dowthwaite knows his way

around the Internet pretty well. "I try and visit something new every day," he said in an interview. "You can go to places that show you the new (Web sites) for the day, but I usually try and find my own."

He has been to many interesting Web sites, including the Big Red Button, the site he considers one of the most interesting he has been to. It is a picture of a 3-D button that says "Push here." When it is pushed, nothing happens. There is a space to leave quotes on what the viewer thinks the red button signifies. "There were people thinking it talked to God or did absolutely nothing at all and philosophizing on why it did nothing at all."

Dowthwaite hooked up to the Net after he saw an advertisement in the Pennysaver. He went online with a Waterloo company that promised good service, but didn't

deliver. "They had 10 Internet lines. They told me they had 100 when I started. It was really bad service. A couple of months into my service I couldn't even get in. I'm not with them any more."

He then hooked up with Golden Triangle On Line, which has given him nothing but good service. "They know what they're doing," he said.

When he got connected, Dowthwaite signed a four-month contract with Golden Triangle for 30 hours at \$19.95 a month. "I don't even come close to using that," he said.

"Be careful who you get connected to. Be sure you have somebody that knows what they're talking about. (Sales) people can really wrap you around their little finger," he said.

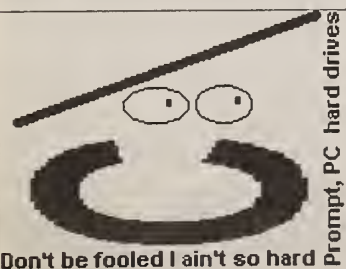
"If you don't get good service, you just won't get interested and that's not fun at all."

There is still a problem with giving out credit card numbers over the Internet, Dowthwaite said. "They say it's safe sending (credit card) numbers over the Internet now. Netscape has really come far with the security factor. But there's still a lot of ways that people can find out your Visa or MasterCard number. You can really get messed up there."

Dowthwaite steers clear of the "chat" lines because, "I've heard there's a lot of perverts out there. A friend was on one of the chat lines and she got a bit wordy with her phone number."

"Now she's got a guy calling her and he won't leave her alone. She's going to be changing her phone number."

"There's some really bizarre people out there. You really have no idea. You hear about it, but you don't know about it until you run into them."



Don't be fooled I ain't so hard

Journalism 2 Spring Supplement

Editor: Richard Kew Copy Editor: Matthew Harris Photo Editor: Paul Roberts Production Manager: Jennifer Dougall Production Assistant: Sara Maxim

Conestoga College students capitalize on Web site design

by Sara Maxim

Two broadcasting students from Conestoga College have started their own company specializing in Web design to meet the demand for Web sites on the Internet.

Twin brothers Roland and Russell Archer, 20, of 120 Old Carriage Dr., Kitchener, are partners in ArcPro, an audio-video-publications company.

The newest addition to their portfolio of designs is a Web site for first-year Conestoga College broadcasting students. This site consists of profiles of each student including their area of specialization and the reason they chose broadcasting. The aim of this Web site is to offer students another medium in which they can market their abilities to prospective employers.

The company was started by the brothers in 1990 as a part-time job. ArcPro at that time dealt mostly with video production. It wasn't until Roland Archer worked at CFHK Radio Ltd., in London, that



the business moved into Web site design.

"I planted the idea of a Web site with CFHK that other radio stations had sites," Roland Archer said. "In November they contacted Russell and me and wanted us to make them a Web site."

The site the brothers created for CFHK featured biographies of the station's disc jockeys, upcoming concert information and contest details.

Their next project after the CFHK site was to create a Web site for Pantel Communications in Cambridge. This site acted primarily as an advertisement for the company. The features and benefits of Pantel's service were stated. As well, an electronic-mail area to

field questions was provided.

However, the brother's job does not end once the Web site has been created.

"After you design a Web site, it's a constant process. It needs to be revised," said Roland Archer. "CFHK, for example, is updated every two weeks." Although the sites are an ongoing job, the brothers make about \$200 to revise the sites, depending on the extent of the revisions needed. As well, the creation of a site can range in price from \$20 to \$100 an hour.

With both brothers working together, a good Web site usually takes two weeks to lay out, more if there are custom graphics. "Working together is our advantage. I can do certain things while Russell is doing other steps," Roland Archer said. "It speeds things up."

With their own company and a steadily increasing portfolio of designs, broadcasting does not seem to suit the brothers. However, they will say that broadcasting is the perfect place to launch a career in Internet design.

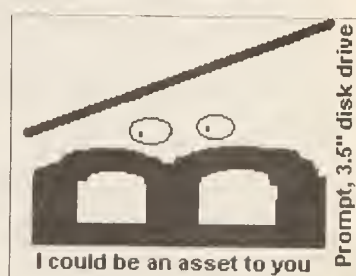
"We're here because we realize that the Internet crosses into the radio and television business," said Roland Archer. "We just want to get the radio and television skills so that if we go on to Internet work, we will understand the business."

Neither of the brothers hopes to end up as a radio or television personality. They are more interested in the technical side of the broadcasting program.

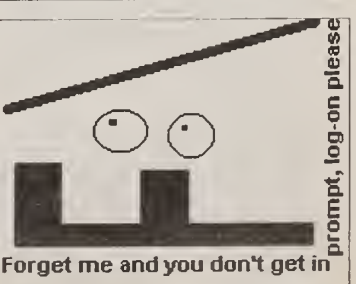
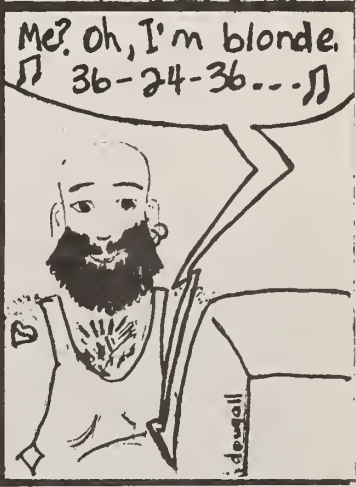
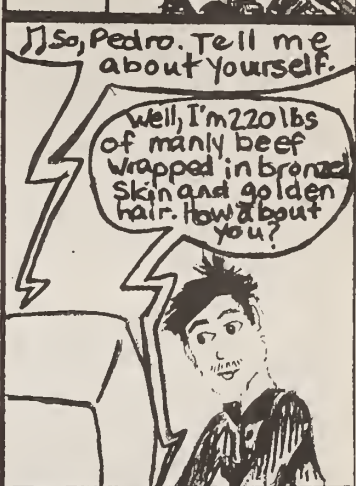
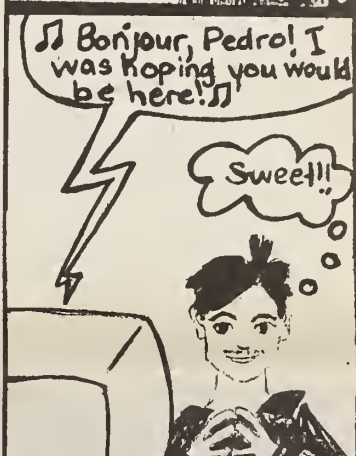
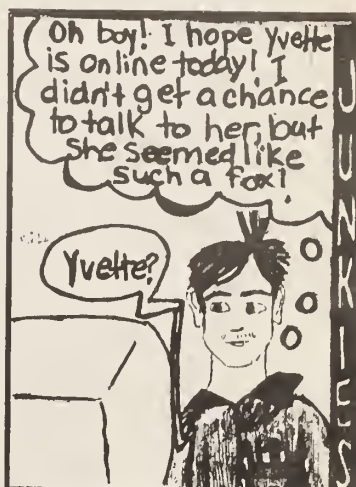
"I'd like to work at City TV," Russell Archer said. "It's more fun to be behind the scenes working on the technical part. You're not dependent on your popularity. You're dependent upon your ability."

The brothers are already working on their next project for a new client. At this point they have not approached any other programs here at Conestoga about Web sites.

However, they have their sights set on seeing Spoke go on-line. If these innovative brothers have a say, Conestoga College's newspaper could soon be in Cyberspace.



Prompt, 3.5" disk drive



Prompt, log-on please

Beginners take care in looking for a server

by Dave Luymes

Beginners considering hooking up to the Internet may want to check a few things about the server before signing over their money.

Ken Cook, a sales and service representative for Burlington Network Services, offered some advice at a free seminar at A-Plus Software in Kitchener on March 16.

"The Internet is the largest and most up-to-date encyclopedia we will ever find," Cook said, before showing examples of 1993 photos of a series of comets colliding with Jupiter.

"It is great entertainment value without the mind-numbing effect of TV," Cook said.

Cook provided a list of things to check when choosing an Internet server. Most companies have a client-to-modem ratio of about 10 to one. Any more than 10 clients using one modem would slow down access speed considerably, Cook said.

Also beware of companies that advertise 28.8 kilobytes per second (kbps) modems, which are the fastest ones to date, but still use some 14.4 kbps modems, Cook said. Some Internet companies try to hide the fact that not all of their modems are the faster 28.8 kbps modems, and custom-

ers may unknowingly end up with Internet service through the slower modems.

Telephone support should be offered 24 hours a day, and instructions and reference material should be supplied by the company, Cook said.

A company's range of connection plans should accommodate customers who realize after a few months that they want a package with more hours. This happens often, and some Internet companies charge a fee to change to a different plan. How long a company has been in business is also a clue to its stability, Cook said.

"... entertainment value without the mind-numbing effect of TV."

A company should not only provide the connection software needed, but also in-home support.

As for the future of the Internet, Cook believes that it will be integrated into people's lives much the same way the postal service and television were.

"You will see a lot of different ways to access the Internet in the future," Cook said.

"As the wireless world is integrated with the Internet, it will soon be possible to sit down on a park bench anywhere with a laptop computer, and surf the Net."

Virtual Companies

Businesses netted together

by Chris Kuhl

As society becomes more computerized and businesses use the Internet more as a resource, a new type of company is emerging.

It's called a virtual company. It is much like the traditional company where a group of people with different skills are assigned to work together on a particular project.

With a virtual company, the workers are self-employed and not necessarily from the same company.

They each have a certain skill, and each one gets hired to perform a particular task.

Allan Riepert is a 32-year-old self-employed computer programmer and technician. His office is a little room adjacent to the living-room at his house on Chapel Hill Drive on the outskirts of Kitchener. This is where he does most of his work.

Riepert is currently setting up a "Web site" for Orenda to advertise on the Internet. Orenda is a large Mississauga based company which manufactures jet engines.

Riepert has worked in similar situations before. He installed computer software (Microsoft Excel) in Coldwell Banker's computers in Waterloo.

However, it was another person who did most of the training of the Coldwell staff on how to use the

new system.

"As more and more people start their own businesses, some of them working out of their homes on their own computers, virtual companies are probably going to increase," said Riepert in an interview at his home.

He said that virtual companies could become a trend of the future.

"It's very new," said Riepert, "and quite often you hear it talked about in relation to computers."

Riepert said the Internet allows people to come together to form virtual companies.

If businesses or individuals need specific things done, they can scan through the Internet and pick out Web sites advertising various companies with the skills needed.

"Small businesses like the Internet," said Riepert, "because you can't tell the difference between a large corporation and a small business. This is good for small businessmen like me."

Riepert's advice to those interested in the virtual-company market is to be as knowledgeable as possible in their area of expertise.

He said it's important to pick something they like doing because they will be doing a lot of it.

Also, he suggests exploration of all the alternatives related to their subject, keeping an open mind, and don't be afraid to consult other people who may be able to help out.

Journalism 2 Spring Supplement

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Internet Addresses Government

<http://www.archives.ca/>
Canadian archives: a collection of maps, pictures and documents.

<http://debra.dgbt.doc.ca:80/opengov/>

A hyperlink to the Canadian government ministry offices.

Music

<http://www.kcrw.org/>

Audio available in 15-minute segments.

<http://www.sony.com/>

Video and sound clips of featured artists.

<http://www.icis.on.ca/homepages/swampamf/amflink.html>
Acid Mud Flower home page.

<http://american.recordings.com/wwwofmusic/ubl/ubl.shtml>

Listing of band home pages on the Internet.

Movies

<http://www.mgmua.com/>

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer United Artists previews and reviews of current and upcoming movies.

<http://www.inform.umd.edu:8080/edres/topic/womensStudies/FilmReviews>

Film reviews with a feminist perspective.

Sports

<http://espn.sportszone.com/>

Espn sports home page.

<http://www.sierra.net/skiweb>
For the skiing enthusiast.

<http://www.vegas.com/wager.net/>

Proline online.

Entertainment

<http://www.easynet.co.uk/pages/cafe/>

Chatline London England, known as Cyberia.

<http://chat.carleton.ca/~spare/willie/willie.html>

Willie the janitor from the Simpsons.

Unusual

<http://www.users.interport.net/~amnesia/butt.html>

For the philosophical: the Big Red Button.

<http://www.ora.com/cgi-bin/crash-cal>

The disaster of the day.

<http://www.ag.com/condom/country>

For those seeking a selection.

Newspapers

<http://www.t-o.com>

The Toronto Star home page.

<http://www.nytimes.com/>

The New York Times home page.

Leisurely world access, a breeze at an Internet cafe

by Matt Harris

Ivan Francis could be called a "newbie." In Internet terms, that means he is a new user. Francis doesn't use the Internet much but he decided one day that he wanted to see what all the hype was about.

So he went to the Eek-A-Geek Cafe in Toronto, a place where Joe Public can come in off the street and try out the Internet. It is styled in the fashion of a coffee house. Eclectic furnishings and an even more eclectic crowd go there.

Francis admitted that he knew very little about the Internet and he heard about Eek-A-Geek through a friend.

What Francis found when he logged on was a culture he had never dreamed existed.

Beginning his exploration, he started by browsing through some World Wide Web pages. An engineering graduate from the University of Toronto, he decided to

"I can't believe so many people use those things,"

Ivan Francis talking about "chat" lines.

look for sites that were about, what else, engineering.

The counter person offered tips to Francis on how to make his search more effective. Francis proceeded to look at other aspects of the "Net".

Going from music sites to university home pages, he found things that he thought he could only get in person.

"Looking through the home

page for the University of Windsor, I noticed that you can look at what the school offers in terms of programs. Also, various parts of different faculties are there as well."

After looking through a few other "Web sites", Francis asked the counter person if she could show him a "chat site." He wasn't prepared for what he saw.

Francis went to an IRC (Internet Relay Chat) site called The Opium Den.

"I can't believe that so many people use those things. I was talking to people from all over the world. Mostly from Canada and the U.S., though."

Tim Laughlin, a sales representative at Golden Triangle On Line in Kitchener, said that chat lines and e-mail are two of the biggest draws about the Internet.

Although not exactly the same kind of business as the Eek-A-Geek Cafe, Golden Triangle does have two terminals set up in its store so anyone can walk in off the street and try out the Internet.

"We show people some basic things about how the Internet works. The biggest thing people ask about when they come in is e-mail," Laughlin said.

Francis said that when he heard about the idea of an Internet cafe, he envisioned coffee-drinking beatniks sitting around writing poetry onto the Internet. When he visited the Eek-A-Geek Cafe, he changed his mind.

"I guess I was wrong about this place. I found it to be real relaxed in there, kind of like a bar." Francis thought that the Eek-A-Geek is not the kind of place more experienced users would be found.

Net noir

The dark side of 'Cyberspace'

by Paul Roberts

The Internet has proven to be a valuable research tool as well as an entertainment showcase. Although, many who have surfed it say not everything on the Net is all that wholesome.

Charles Manson, Ted Bundy and Jeffrey Dahmer all share a home in cyberspace at the Serial Killer Hall of Fame Web site.

This site is just one of thousands that are considered tasteless by some; yet, it is enjoyed as a form of entertainment on the Internet by others.

Since November 1995, 32,650 "Net surfers" have visited the Church of Satan home page where readers can find tidbits about casting love- and hate-spells or purchase a ceremonial knife from an extensive catalogue of deadly-looking blades.

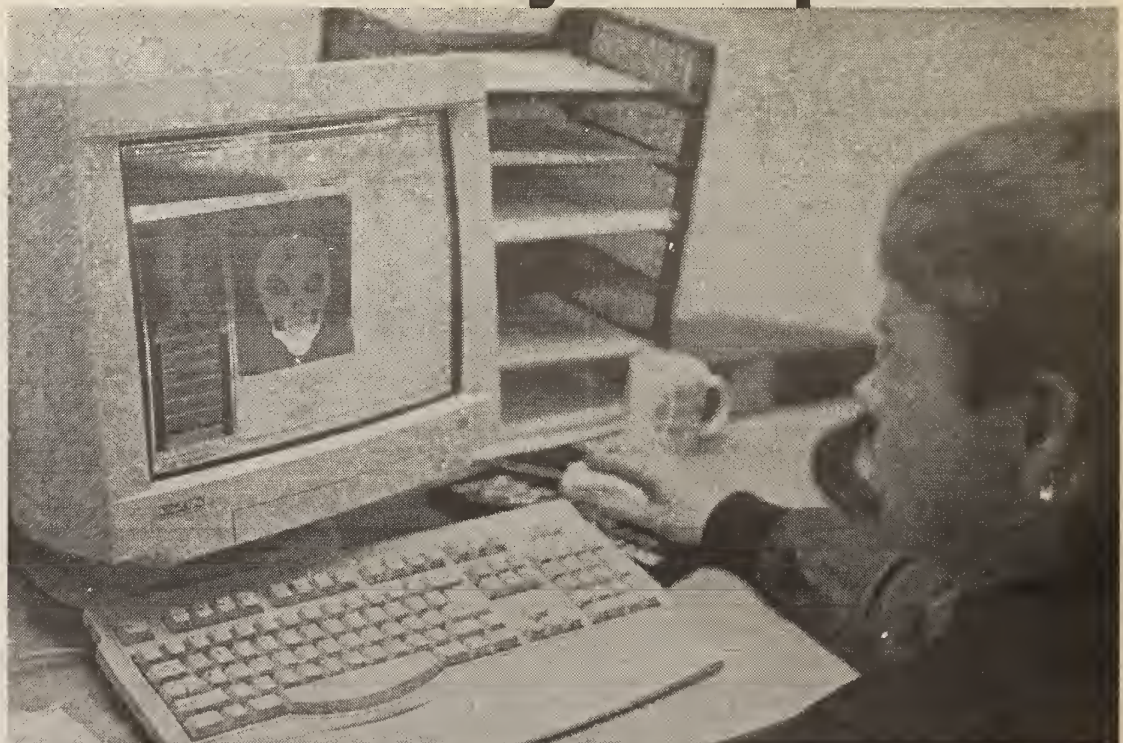
First-year Conestoga College business-management student Robert Frank is a reporter's guide to this macabre side of the Internet.

According to Frank, the "hyper-text" function on this Satanic home page links a surfer to even stranger Web pages.

"There are parts of it that are definitely adult oriented," Robert Frank

"You can find almost anything on the Net with just a little hunting around," said Frank.

"If we were actually going



Robert Frank explores the darkside from his computer console.

Photo by Paul Roberts

somewhere and needed a car, we could look at a few at the Grim Rides Funeral Car Club page."

The page is a reference site for those interested in purchasing a hearse. The names and e-mail addresses of owners and enthusiasts of these vehicles are prominently listed when a surfer enters the site.

After a little more searching, Frank stumbles upon the Crime Scene Evidence File Web page.

This site closely resembles what a homicide detective awakens to on a Monday morning.

Fictitious file photos depicting

ghastly murders light up the screen and clicking the mouse on another section of the screen provides the viewer with further evidence.

Mail-order catalogues filled with federally banned books and videotapes can also be found all over the Internet and obtaining these materials can be as easy as sending e-mail.

"This should be a great concern to parents," said Frank. "It can all be a lot of fun, but it's surprising that kids have access to this kind of stuff," said Frank. "Their parents should keep an eye on what

they (the children) are viewing."

An answer to this concern may come from a new software package called Net Shepherd.

This program can be downloaded free of charge from the Internet and allows parents of surfers under the age of 18 to rate the subject matter, violence and language of all Web pages.

If the page has no rating, the child cannot continue into the site.

"The Internet is obviously very useful," said Frank. "But there are parts of it that are definitely adult oriented."

TAKING SIDES

DO YOU THINK THE INCREASE TO OSAP AND BURSARIES WILL BE ENOUGH TO OFFSET TUITION AND FEE HIKE?

Luckier than we know

By Ewa Jankowiak



In terms of a short-period solution, increased Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) funding and bursaries will offset tuition increases.

There is no doubt that students who are going to repay their loans will be paying back more money.

Increased tuition fees — 15 per cent for colleges — announced by the Ministry of Education, are a nightmare for most students who depend on government funding. Higher tuition, effective September 1996, means a student will need more money.

Betty Martin, the financial officer at Conestoga College, said in her last interview for Spoke that with the increase there will be more OSAP provided to the students.

OSAP, which includes Canada Student Loans and Ontario Student Loans, is the only financial aid available for many students.

The amount of money a student receives depends on his or her assessed need, such as living situation and education costs.

The Canada student loan meets 60 per cent of a student's needs for his or her study period. Ontario student loan covers the rest.

On the last day of the seventh month after ceasing to be a full-time student, a repayment of the loan must begin.

For example, a typical monthly payment for a loan of \$14,000, based on an interest rate of 12 per cent and period of 9.5 years, will be \$206. This means that when a student finishes repaying a loan, the total payments, with the total interest of \$9,527 paid, will be \$23,527.

A student with tuition fees of \$1,500 this year will have to pay \$1,725 next year.

The tuition fee for a three-year program will be about \$700 higher, so the loan and repayment will correspond.

However, Canada still has a relatively low cost of post-secondary education compared to the United States, where educational systems are not only more expensive, but also elitist. Only a small percentage of the American population can afford to pay tuition fees in that nation's institutions.

There is no financial aid such as OSAP, which gives the student at least a six-month period to pay back student loans. Banks in both Canada and the U.S. that finance a student's education directly, at the minimum, want a student to at least pay the interest on their loans.

Education is expensive and any student funding program should be valued as a privilege.

It is worthwhile to remember that college students paid only 19 per cent of the total cost of their education last year, and it is still one of the lowest rates when compared with other countries.

campus comments

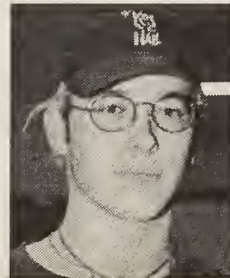


"As long as it meets or exceeds the tuition hike. If it doesn't, students will have to find another way to pay for tuition."

Lynn Martin
third-year materials management

"No. Enough people are having trouble stretching their OSAP as it is. A little increase won't help that much."

Chris Oliver
second-year broadcasting



"Probably not. I think it is going to keep going up. There is never enough."

Melissa Mills
first-year marketing

"No I don't think so because it's not enough now, even if it matches the 15 per cent. It's still not enough."

Deanne Richards
first-year marketing

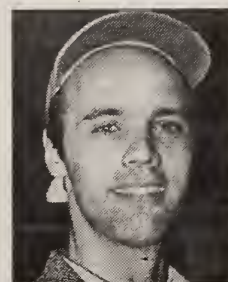


"The government doesn't have enough money anyway, so they'll lie and say it will be enough, but it won't."

Gord Foster
electrical engineering technician

"I don't think so. The budget cuts are going to be long and hard. Everything is going through cuts. OSAP will too."

Rich Scott
third-year materials management



OSAP a bite from behind



By Tara Brown

The opportunity to chop education funding has been roundly exploited by the provincial government. Post-secondary administrations have added their own "fees" on top of the admissible 15 per cent. Government and college administration seem to be moving closer to that American idea of inequality defining itself in education.

Students have been assured that the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) will be going up as well, to help offset these new increases, whether orchestrated by government or implemented by college administration, or both.

Anyone on OSAP knows that sooner or later the banks come to get their money. Say as many meaningful things as you want about education and its innate, intrinsic value, but it doesn't change the reality that an increase in education, accompanied by an increase in OSAP, is no bargain for the student.

Canadian bankers took over the fate of students last year. The government found that they weren't doing a good enough job of managing their money (!) and so farmed OSAP out to some of the biggest profit-making corporations in the country. Profits, not students, are what matter to big business.

Students are constantly and consistently told that they have it easy. "Do you know what that would cost in the U.S.?", "You don't appreciate something if you don't pay for it". Who hasn't heard their parents or another member of the baby boom generation parrot these sentiments over and over again?

With the current trend of increased cost to the student, whether now or 18 months after graduation, education will no longer be accountable to a greater part of society to push the limits of "conventional wisdom", for the simple reason that the majority of society won't be able to afford it.

Higher OSAP isn't going to solve any problems. A new system is needed whereby students can earn their education in other ways. Co-op is an option. Why not expand the co-op idea to include all disciplines? Earn points toward the cost of your education and gain work experience. Businesses get a labor force they can mold into viable employees and all those nonsense degrees are suddenly forced to come up with some real justification for their existence.

If society would invest in colleges, universities and trade schools the way they invest in stocks, education wouldn't have problems and society would get a handsome return. It's worth a bit more than toothy grins and sticky handshakes from fat-cat loans officers gloating over another poor sucker who wants to learn something.

YES

Do you have any topical questions you want straight-forward answers to? Send them to the editor or staff in Room 4B15, or call SPOKE at 748-5366.

NO

CONESTOGA LIFE

Lifestyles editor: Tara Brown 748-5366

New program needs male volunteers

By Judith Hemming

Because of a shortage of male volunteers, the Walk Safe program did not operate on two out of the first eight nights of its pilot project.

The program requires a co-ed volunteer team, said April-Dawn Blackwell, the newly elected DSA president. The pilot project started on March 25, and is to continue until April 25.

Co-ed teams, used also at Fanshawe and Mohawk colleges and the University of Waterloo, are required as a security measure, both for the program's users and its volunteers. "We want to ensure the safety of our volunteers as well as our users," said Blackwell.

There are now 15 volunteers for the program. Walk Safe currently has more female than male volunteers. Blackwell said the program is looking for male volunteers to help balance the female to male ratio.

The program is also looking for two or three more people to act as co-ordinators for the program. Blackwell is the current program co-ordinator.

Blackwell said there has been

some confusion over people thinking the program is a foot patrol. The team and its co-ordinator sit outside the security headquarters and the team only leaves the station to provide the Walk Safe service.

As for usage, Blackwell said she is happy with the first few weeks, as it is a brand new service. Six people used the program for four walks on its first night, and the number of people using the service ranged between two to seven people a night.

Volunteers can choose how many shifts they wish to work each week. "That was a big misconception, too. I'm not asking for four nights a week. We'll sign up your name with what your willing to do," said Blackwell.

Tad Musial, a first-year student in the Law and Security Administration program, who is part of a Walk Safe team, said he sees it as a volunteering opportunity for his resume.

Cheryl Lacey, also a first-year LASA student, said volunteering for the program both looks good on a resume and is a good opportunity to help others. "That's what LASA's for."



Julie Donnelly, Cheryl Lacey and Tad Musial, all first-year LASA students, help out the Walk Safe program and April-Dawn Blackwell on April 3, 1996.

(Photo by Diane Santos)

Julie Donnelly, a first-year LASA student who was being trained to be a Walk Safe co-ordinator, said, "It gives a competitive edge (to graduating students looking for jobs)."

Donnelly was involved in a foot

patrol at Lakehead for a year. "It was really interesting. Then, when they had this, I thought, the more volunteering on the resume, the better it looks."

All three said they plan to volunteer one shift a week in the fall if

the executive approves the continuation of the Walk Safe program.

If the program is approved, the executive will also review the need for a foot patrol and a Walk Safe phone number.

Afternoon in the Lounge

Video Presentation
Featuring
BRAVEHEART
Thursday, April 18
in the Sanctuary

WALK SAFE

DSA Walk Safe Pilot Project Begins March 25th

7:30 pm - 11:30 pm
Mondays - Thursdays



Walk Safe Headquarters at the
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DSA BOARD of DIRECTORS Notice of Meeting

Tuesday, April 16

4:30 pm

Room 1B20

All BOD Members Please Plan to
Attend our last meeting of the year

CONESTOGA LIFE

DSA president sits on HOBY panel

By Amanda Weber

"The view that university is the only way to go, comes from parents, teachers and guidance counsellors," says Doon Student Association president Dawn Mittelholtz.

Mittelholtz, was speaking about a panel she sat on at a local high school last week.

Mittelholtz said that HOBY, an organization made up of high school student association people from all over Kitchener-Waterloo, got in touch with April-Dawn Blackwell to see if a representative from the DSA would be a member of a five-person panel

at Eastwood Collegiate.

"I thought it was very worthwhile," Mittelholtz said, "I also thought it was important for the DSA and Conestoga."

HOBY stands for the Hugh O'Brien Youth Association. HOBY's goal is to target youths age 15-16 to develop their leadership skills.

Mittelholtz was just one of five people speaking to a crowd of mostly Grade 10 and 11 students from KCI, Grand River and Eastwood Collegiate about their educational choices.

Others on the panel included a university liaison officer, a Wilfrid Laurier University business

student, a business owner with no post-secondary education and a business owner with post-secondary education.

"We each had five minutes to speak about the importance of choice," Mittelholtz said. "It was something that I decided to do and it was great," Mittelholtz said. There were a lot of good questions, she said.

Mittelholtz said she deals with a number of people who think university education is the only way to go and she hopes the panel helped to work on that attitude.



DSA president Dawn Mittelholtz was happy to be part of a panel talking to students about education choices.

(Photo by Amanda Weber)

ECE graduate appreciates program's work terms

By Allison Dempsey

When Linda Cassel graduated from Conestoga's early childhood education program in 1995, she had already been working part time in the field for several years. But she felt the practical experience the program provided was an invaluable learning tool.

Cassel, 32, recently started a new job in the pre-school room of St. Jacob's Day Care, which she said better suited her strengths and preferences.

At St. Jacob's, she does programming, decorating and creative circles all geared to meet the needs of the children in the day-care.

At her previous job at Westvale Child Care, Cassel worked with school-age children also doing programming and working on gross-motor skills, but said the job was frustrating because she "got the children at the end of the day when they would have rather been anywhere else than there."

Cassel did supply work part time at various day cares during the past four years while she took courses at Conestoga. Her position at the Wilmot Community Centre was cut last year due to budget restraints, and although disappointed, the turn of events "boosted me to go back to school full time."

The economic situation was fairly

good when she originally decided to enrol in ECE said Cassel. However, with the recent cuts to education, she has seen jobs and salaries drop off.

At Westvale, Cassel made \$15.40 an hour, which is the top end of the scale for child care workers. Most of the other centres offer \$8-9 an hour, but Cassel will not make less than \$11 an hour at St. Jacob's, where a direct operating grant referred to as "salary enhancement" is used to top up wages.

Cassel said having four children of her own helped her with the ECE program. She also said her age provided her with the confidence needed to return to school.

"As a mature student you definitely know what program you want to be in. Some of the 18- and 19-year-olds were incredibly nervous, but I wasn't."

She said good friends in the program helped her get through some rough times at school, especially when she decided to attend full time. She did her homework in bed on Saturday mornings while her sons watched television, because "I'm not a last-minute person. It was just something I had to do and I did it."

Cassel said the ECE program provided ample practical experience, which allowed her to view how others work with children.

While the ECE classes provided theory that is useful, it was the practical work terms which gave her confidence and skills to take into the working world, she said.

"You need time to develop your own philosophy about child care. It changes until you find a style you're comfortable with. I look within myself to see what needs to be changed. It's a constant learning process," she said.

Cassel enjoys taking new courses, especially ones involving personality traits, to help her better deal with children and co-workers. "I want to take Intro to Computers too. I love going to school. My kids think I'm nuts, but I really enjoy it."




NOMINATIONS

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*Athlete of the Year
(Male & Female)*





*Official of the Year
(Male & Female)*



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April 19, 1996**

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ENTERTAINMENT/SPORTS

Editor: Linda Yovanovich 748-5366

Just joking with Jerry

By Jennifer Broomhead

Making your own fun when you're low on cash isn't hard to do, and as long as you're careful you won't get into trouble, according to Toronto comedian Johnny Gardhouse.

Gardhouse took centre stage in the Sanctuary for the last free nooner of the 1995-96 school year, coming straight from a gig at the Improv comedy club in Los Angeles.

The routine relied heavily on audience interaction, and Gardhouse selected a few students to chat with and ridicule. It took the crowd some time to warm up and respond to Gardhouse's jokes, but with a little time and a little encouragement, the act got rolling.

Some of Gardhouse's suggestions for having fun without spending a lot of money included taking a driving test under a fake name and terrorizing the instructor, and harassing people at the airport.

The only trouble is, Gardhouse warned, you have to be careful who you try to fool.

Case in point: In January, Gardhouse and three of his friends pulled the wool over the eyes of American TV talk-show host Jerry Springer.

The four comics wound up getting sued for \$80,000 US. Gardhouse said they weren't too worried, however, because they had hired a lawyer named Matlock to represent them.

Gardhouse's comedy did not rely on much physical movement unless he was talking about driving or

flying; facial expressions and unusual voices carried the jokes, especially those about American tourists.

Canadians and their quirks weren't totally safe from mockery, though.

Gardhouse poked fun at the incident involving Jean Chretien and a protester earlier this year, suggesting that Chretien should turn the House of Commons into a wrestling arena.

He called Saskatchewan "the Vegas of the prairies," and he questioned the validity of the space program.

"One Canadian in space is an astronaut. Two Canadians in space are drinking buddies."

In an interview following the show, Gardhouse told the story of the Jerry Springer incident.

Gardhouse said one of his friends involved, called the show a prank, leaving Gardhouse's name. "They called back, and I just went along with it."

The four comics told Springer's show that Gardhouse had slept with his babysitter and wanted to tell his wife about it on television.

The show was taped on Jan. 9 and aired a month later.

Gardhouse said they had planned to tell the show's producers that they were playing a joke on them, but a Toronto reporter beat them to it.

The reporter was a comedy writer and recognized the comedians when he saw the show. He called Springer for a comment and revealed the secret without realizing it, Gardhouse said.

Banquet will honor athletes

By Diane Santos

Members of the Student Athletic Council (SAC) and Conestoga's athletic department are gearing up for the Annual Athletic Awards night to be held Friday, April 19.

The event will be held in the gymnasium at the Kenneth E. Hunter recreation centre. Cocktails are at 6 p.m., with dinner served around 6:30 p.m. The meal will be catered by Beaver Foods and the awards ceremony begins at 7:30 p.m.

Nominations for the awards will not be announced prior to the banquet.

Awards include most valuable player in all varsity sports, coach

of the year, intramural team of the year, an officials award and male and female athlete of the year.

The only awards that can be nominated by players are the male and female athletes of the year. The remainder of the awards are usually nominated by the coaches of the individual teams. The awards will be either certificates or trophies, depending on the category.

This year the athletic department decided to have SAC participate in the banquet. Elaine Keller, a member, said they are hoping to create a greater interest among athletes at the college.

The athletic department is anticipating anywhere from 100 to 150 people, including athletes,

parents and friends.

SAC members Keller, Amy Olson and Sherry Dolson are involved in the organization and planning of the event.

Tickets are on sale for \$5 and can be purchased at the recreation centre. They will not be available at the door the night of the banquet.

In previous years the DSA and the athletic department held their awards banquets together. But this year, the DSA will be having a banquet of its own on April 15.

Invitations will be sent to students and faculty members who have been nominated. The DSA banquet will be held at the Doon Valley Golf Club. For more information contact the DSA office.

Movie review

Executive Decision typical fare

By Ewa Jankowiak

Steven Segal's fans could be disappointed to see their hero die at the beginning of the latest film from Joel Silver, but Kurt Russell easily fills the heroic part.

Executive Decision, an action-thriller motion picture, centres around six elite military operatives who get aboard a hijacked airliner Boeing 747 while it's in mid-air.

The plane had been hijacked by Naji Hassa (David Suchet) the second-in-command and fanatical leader of a feared terrorist organization.

David Grand (Russell) and Lt.-Col. Austin Travis (Segal), members of an anti-terrorist unit in U.S. special forces, use an experimental high-tech aircraft designed to transfer crews to the 747.

During the docking, Travis dies

and the spacecraft is destroyed because of a hydraulic problem.

Grand plays an ordinary guy who has to make decisions and takes the consequences. He maintains his new responsibility by acting super-cool and very professional.

Grand spends the movie chasing the terrorists through the plane with a strong and stone calmness, but his portrayal of a super hero is unconvincing.

The best part of the movie, though, is that Hassan operates his own secret plan. He wants to de-



Photo courtesy of Warner Bros.

stroy Washington, D.C., by using the most lethal nerve toxin, DZ-5, being carried on the aircraft as cargo.

Executive Decision is the typical Hollywood production. The audience is led through the plot which moves quickly.

The vital feminine presence is supplied by Halle Berry (*Losing Isaiah* and *Boomerang*).

The beautiful flight attendant Jane, helps Russell and his crew disarm the group of terrorists. Her strong and sensitive attitudes even seem authentic.

The film does provide moments of tension, fear and titillation, but not enough to keep the audience excited.

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